IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A pivot hinge mechanism supporting a main body and pivotable unit pivotably in relation to each other, the pivot hinge mechanism comprising:

a stationary plate ~~installed~~ attached to one of the main body and pivotable unit;

rotating plates ~~installed~~ attached to the other of the main body and pivotable unit; and

a spindle supporting the rotating plates rotatably about an axis of rotation in relation to the stationary plate,

the stationary and rotating plates ~~having formed therein~~ including openings extending completely through the stationary and rotating plates in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation through which openings a harness routed between the main body and rotating portion ~~is penetrated~~ passes; and

the opening in the stationary plate and those in the rotating plates being ~~formed~~ arranged [[for]] at least ~~a part thereof to overlap~~ partially overlapping each other in the direction parallel to the axis of rotation along an angular range in which the pivotable unit is pivoted in relation to the main body the opening in the stationary plate and those in the rotating plates being eccentric to the axis of rotation.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The pivot hinge mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the opening in the stationary plate and those in the rotating plates ~~are formed to~~ have a nearly circular shape having a predetermined width and extending divergently in a predetermined ~~an~~ angular range about the spindle.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The pivot hinge mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the angular range of the openings in the stationary and moving plates is larger than a

half of a maximum angle through which the pivotable unit is ~~pivoted~~ pivotable in relation to the main body and smaller than the maximum angle.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The pivot hinge mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the harness is a flexible printed circuit board and ~~can~~ is configured to be folded back between the openings in the stationary and moving plates in which the folded-back portions of the flexible printed circuit board overlap each other.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The pivot hinge mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising a first friction mechanism and second friction mechanism, which ~~give~~ provide friction [[to]] between the rotating and stationary plates at the inner and outer walls thereof.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The pivot hinge mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the first friction mechanism includes a leaf spring, pressing plate and friction plate, disposed with the spindle penetrating ~~being penetrated~~ between the stationary plate and rotating plates,

the leaf spring being compressed between the stationary and rotating plates and forcing the pressing plate ~~which will thus be pressed to~~ against the friction plate to generate friction.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The pivot hinge mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the second friction mechanism includes:

a peripheral annular plate including a ring portion ~~being~~ in sliding contact with [[the]] a main side of [[the]] a periphery of the rotating plate, opposite to the stationary plate, and a

flange portion projecting from the periphery of the ring portion toward the stationary plate and in a direction in which the diameter ~~is larger~~ of the ring portion is largest and which is ~~installed~~ attached to the stationary plate; and

a leaf spring fixed to the stationary plate and ~~disposed being~~ compressed between the stationary plate and periphery of the rotating plate,

the leaf spring compressed between the stationary plate and periphery of the rotating plate pressing the rotating plate whose periphery ~~will~~ is thus be forced [[to]] toward the ring portion of the peripheral annular plate to generate friction.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The pivot hinge mechanism according to claim 7, wherein the second friction mechanism includes a second rotating plate supported rotatably on the spindle while catching the ring portion between itself and rotating plate and which is installed integrally to the rotating plate through ~~inside~~ the ring portion.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An imaging device, comprising:

a main body ~~having~~ including ~~provided~~ therein an imaging unit configured to capture an image of an object;

a grip unit ~~having~~ including ~~provided~~ therein a recording unit to record the image captured by the imaging unit and installed pivotably to one side of the main body; and

a pivot hinge mechanism ~~supporting~~ that supports the main body and pivotable unit pivotably in relation to each other,

the pivot hinge mechanism including a stationary plate ~~installed~~ attached to one of the main body and pivotable unit, rotating plates ~~installed~~ attached to the other of the main body and pivotable unit, and a spindle supporting the rotating plates rotatably in relation to the stationary plate about an axis of rotation,

the stationary and rotating plates ~~having formed therein~~ including openings extending completely through the stationary and rotating plates in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation through which a harness routed between the main body and rotating portion ~~is penetrated~~ passes, and the opening in the stationary plate and those in the rotating plates ~~being formed for at least a part thereof to overlap~~ at least partially overlapping each other in the direction parallel to the axis of rotation along in an angular range in which the pivotable unit is pivoted in relation to the main body the opening in the stationary plate and those in the rotating plates being eccentric to the axis of rotation.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The imaging device according to claim 9, wherein the opening in the stationary plate and those in the rotating plates ~~are formed to~~ have a nearly circular shape having a predetermined width and extending divergently in a predetermined [[an]] angular range about the spindle.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The imaging device according to claim 10, wherein the angular range of the openings in the stationary and moving plates is larger than a half of a maximum angle through which the pivotable unit is ~~pivoted~~ pivotable in relation to the main body and smaller than the maximum angle.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The imaging device according to claim 9, wherein the harness is a flexible printed circuit board and [[can]] is configured to be folded back between the openings in the stationary and moving plates in which the folded-back portions of the flexible printed circuit board overlap each other.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The imaging device according to claim 12, wherein the flexible printed circuit board is a ribbon and includes ~~has~~ a portion bent ~~in plane~~ with a predetermined curvature and is folded back between the openings in the stationary and rotating plates where the bent portions overlap each other.

Claim 14 (Original): The imaging device according to 13, wherein the curvature radius of the bent portion is nearly equal to that, about the spindle, of the openings in the stationary and rotating plates.

Claim 15 (Original): The imaging device according to claim 12, wherein the harness is a double-side printed circuit board.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The imaging device according to claim 9, further comprising a first friction mechanism and second friction mechanism, which ~~give~~ generate friction [[to]] between the rotating and stationary plates at [[the]] inner and outer walls thereof.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The imaging device according to claim 16, wherein the first friction mechanism includes a leaf spring, pressing plate and friction plate, disposed with the spindle ~~being penetrated~~ passing between the stationary plate and rotating plates,

the leaf spring being compressed between the stationary and rotating plates and forcing the pressing plate ~~which will thus be pressed to~~ against the friction plate to generate friction.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The pivot hinge mechanism according to claim 16, wherein the second friction mechanism includes:

a peripheral annular plate including a ring portion ~~being~~ in sliding contact with [[the]] a main side of the periphery of the rotating plate, opposite to the stationary plate, and a flange portion projecting from the periphery of the ring portion toward the stationary plate and in a direction in which the diameter ~~is larger~~ of the ring portion is largest and which is installed to the stationary plate; and

a leaf spring fixed to the stationary plate and ~~disposed being~~ compressed between the stationary plate and periphery of the rotating plate,

the leaf spring being compressed between the stationary plate and periphery of the rotating plate pressing the rotating plate whose periphery ~~will~~ is thus [[be]] forced ~~to~~ toward the ring portion of the peripheral annular plate to generate friction.

Claim 19 (Original): The imaging device according to claim 18, wherein the second friction mechanism includes a second rotating plate supported rotatably on the spindle while catching the ring portion between itself and rotating plate and which is installed integrally to the rotating plate through inside the ring portion.